

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 L-03 H-01 HA-05

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-----001906 262116Z /62

O 261930Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3823

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CASC, NI

SUBJECT: AIG CASE: DETENTION LF LE FEVRE AND EGBE

AF DUTY OFFICER PLEASE TELEPHONE AF/W DIRECTOR TOM SMITH

1. EMBOFF PEASHOCK, RITTER AND SEVERAL OF EGBE'S LEGAL STAFF CALLED ON LE FEVRE AND EGBE AT IKOYI PRISON AGAIN THIS EVENING. ALTHOUGH PRISON OFFICIALS REFUSED TO PERMIT VISITORS TO DISCUSS OTHER THAN PLEASANTRIES, BOTH MEN SAID THEY WERE WELL TREATED AND IN GOOD SPIRITS. ALTHOUGH EGBE'S LAWYERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, THEY CONFIRMED TO PEASHOCK THAT EGBE AND LE FEVRE HAD INDEED BEEN OFFICIALLY CHARGED WITH "CONSPIRACY TO STEAL" AND THUS THEIR JAILING WAS LEGAL.

2. EGBE'S LAWYERS HAVE CLARIFIED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEXT STEP IN THE EXPECTED SCENARIO. IN OUR PREVIOUS TELEGRAM TODAY WE SAID WE THOUGHT IT WOULD CONSIST OF A RENEWED BAIL OFFER. WE NOW UNDERSTAND IT WILL INSTEAD BE A PRESENTATION TO THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT THAT WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN A DISMISSAL OF THE CHARGES AGAINST BOTH MEN. THIS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY MARCH 28. NEITHER EGBE NOR LE FEVRE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THAT PRESENTATION. IT WILL BE HANDLED BY EGBE'S LAWYERS WITH THE MAGISTRATE. IF THE MAGISTRATE APPROVES THE PETITION (WHICH IS SAID TO CARRY THE BLESSING OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE) COLN
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LE FEVRE AND EGBE PRESUMABLY GO FREE.

3. LE FEVRE'S WIFE CARMLE VISITED LE FEVRE TWICE TODAY.

4. I SENT A PERSONAL NOTE TO PROTEST THIS EVENING TO FABUNMI

REGARDING OUR FAILURE TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL CONSULAR ACCESS TO

LE FEVRE. IN THE PAST FIVE DAYS WE HAVE SENT TWO OFFICIAL EMBASSY
NOTES TO MEA AND HAVE VISITED FABUNMI'S OFFICE OR HOME NINE
RPT NINE TIMES. EMBASSYSUGGESTS DEPARTMENT WEIGH IN WITH
NIGERIAN CHARGE. WE REALIZE HE IS DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH, BUT
WE NEED TO TRY TO PREG MEA FROM ALL POSSIBLE ANGLES.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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